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Centre's Hero Also Football Man of 1945

CPYRGHT

Players in Harvard's '21 Defeat All Business, Professional Leaders

By HERBERT A. KENNY

If one name emerges from the two great football games between Harvard and Centre College of Danville, Ky.—the "Praying Colonels"—in 1920 and 1921, it is that of the late Alvin Nugent "Bo" McMillin, the quarterback of the Centre team.

After his death of cancer Mar. 31, 1952, Centre College set up a Bo McMillin room at the college to honor its greatest All-American. He was the first "outlander" that Walter Camp ever put on his famous All-American teams and he won a lifetime of football honors.

* * *

He went on from the Harvard game of 1921 to a distinguished coaching career. In 1940 he was president of the National Football Coaches Assn. and in 1945 voted "Football Man of the Year" and in 1951 was awarded the Stagg trophy for his contributions to football.

He coached Little Geneva College and saw it upset Harvard in 1926. Later he went to Indiana University and led them to a conference title in 1945. He also coached the Detroit Lions and the Philadelphia Eagles.

But one man is never alone.

* * *

The great Centre fullback and end, James "Red" Roberta, who ran key interference for McMillin on the historic third quarter touchdown when Centre beat Harvard 6 to 0, died in a hotel fire in Middlesboro, Ky.

Norris Armstrong, the Centre captain in 1921, is a Danville business man and a member of the Centre board of trustees. Bill James, one of the tackles, is head coach at Trinity College in San Antonio, Tex., and Minos Gordy, the other tackle, owns the Gordy Salt Co. in New Iberia, La. One of the guards, Bill Shadoan, is a colonel in the Army, while Royce Filippin, a substitute guard on the squad, later became assistant Secretary of the Navy and then into investments in New York.

* * *

The year that Filippin was playing guard one of his opponents was Gov. A.B. "Happy" Chandler, who was a member of the team of Transylvania College in Lexington, Ky. "Happy" doesn't like to recall the score. The Centre team beat them, 98 to 0.

Tom Hartnett, the fullback on the Centre team, is a bank president. Ed Kubale, the center, is a farmer and commissioner of the Kentucky Turnpike project. Another guard, George "Buck" Jones, is a West Virginia road contractor.

The substitute fullback, Case Thomasson, is superintendent of schools in Middlesboro, Ky. Joe Murphy, a substitute halfback, is a Stearns, Ky., business man. Most of the others are in business.

* * *

The three men responsible for bringing the team together and making it the outstanding unit that it was are all deceased. They were Uncle Charlie Moran, who became a big league baseball umpire; "Tiny" Thornhill, the line coach, who went on to coach Stanford University, and Robert L. "Chief" Myers, the athletic director. It was he who brought McMillin to Centre and gave the team the spark it needed.

In 1952, when the squad of Centre's "Golden Days" had a reunion, a New York sports writer said: "The Praying Colonels must have learned something more than football from Uncle Charlie Moran and Chief Myers—most of them are now prosperous stockholders, bankers and merchants."

And one team is only half a titanic battle, whether it won or lost.

* * *

As for the Harvard players, 1921 captain and left tackle R. Keith Kane, is a prominent Wall Street attorney and a fellow of the Harvard Corporation.

His counterpart on the other side of the line, Philip E. Kunhardt, now a father of four chil-

dren, is a New York furniture merchant.

Right guard John J. Brown is employed by the Bethlehem Steel Co. His substitute Wesley G. Brockway lives in Illinois.

Charles C. Macomber, the right end, is president of a building firm.

At the other end of the line was Henry C. Janis, now a San Francisco investment broker. He also served two years with the Central Intelligence Agency. Their substitutes Joseph M. Hartley 2nd and Richard P. Field are a special services officer in the Army and operator of a Cincinnati metal fabricating business, respectively.

Center Francis X. Kernen Jr. is in the investment business in New York. Three brothers followed him through Harvard. His replacement Standish Bradford is a Federal st. lawyer and director of the Robert Breck Brigham Hospital.

* * *

Substitute tight tackle Benoni Lockwood Jr. is a government mining engineer with the International Cooperation Administration.

Another center, Henry W. Clark, a native Alaskan, is Washington representative for the Alaska S.S. Co.

Left guard Charles J. Hubbard Jr. who became team captain in 1923, is engineering and exploration chief of Arctic operations of the U.S. Weather Bureau in Washington, D.C. Chore-splitting Henry S. Grew Jr. is in the New York mercantile business.

The last lineman starting left tackle for the injury-riddled Crimson squad in the Centre College game, was Alexander H. Ladd, now vice president of a Boston investment company.

* * *

Quarterback F.J. Johnson lives in Tennessee. Second-string signal-caller Charles C. Buell, 1922 captain, is head of the Department of Public Affairs at St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H.

Vinton Chapin, French native who played the whole game at right halfback, is a member of the State Department foreign service and was attached to the National War College faculty.

Starting fullback Erwin L. Gehrk is general manager of an Ohio wire concern. Mitchell Gratiwick, substitute fullback, was appointed principal of the Horace Mann School in New York in 1950. The third fullback Winthrop H. Churchill is a State-st. investment counselor.

At left half were Francis Rouillard and Philip F. Coburn. Now Dr. Rouillard, he is a graduate of Harvard Medical School, specializing in obstetrics. Coburn is a textile engineer and makes his home in Weston.

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WINNERS BACK HOME—Victorious 1921 Centre College team arrives in Danville, Ky., aboard a fire engine after breaking Harvard's skein of 16 games without a loss with a 6 to 0 win. They are: (1) "Bo" McMillin, deceased; (2) Herb Covington, (3) Norris "Army" Armstrong, (4) Bill James, (5) Ben Gregor; (6) "Chief" Myers, deceased; (7) "Uncle Charley" Moran, deceased; (8) Hope Hudgins, (9) Frank Rubarth, (10) Hennie Lemon, (11) Tiny Thornhill, (12) Buck Jones, (13) Ed Kubale, (14) Major George Chinn, (15) Terry Snowday, (16) Thomas Bartlett, (17) John "Hump" Tanner, (18) Jim Priest, (19) G. Dewey Kimbel, (20) Dick Gibson, and (21) Col William Shadoan.

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